



Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ News and Events
- ▶ Green Cleaning 101
- ▶ Five Common Myths about Green Cleaning
- ▶ Have Your Questions Answered

NEWS AND EVENTS

- **Funding Opportunity.** EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs announced the availability of approximately \$1 million for assistance agreements to further the adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) by the nation's K-12 public and tribal schools. Read more about the [EPA School Integrated Pest Management Grants](#).
- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Guidance.** Read a newly released [OSHA guidance document](#) on practical recommendations that will help prevent or minimize IAQ problems in commercial and institutional buildings.
- **Mold and Moisture: Double Trouble for Schools Webinar — July 20, 2011, at 1 p.m. EST.** Join school mold experts Peggy Caruso from Katy Independent School District, Texas and Todd Spore from Building Envelope Consulting Division, PBK Architects to arm yourself with knowledge to control and prevent mold and moisture issues in your schools. [Register today!](#)
- **Green Cleaning Webinar Series.** The Healthy Schools Campaign presents Green Cleaning Webinars, a series of online seminars featuring national leaders and on-the-ground experts on green cleaning in schools. Upcoming topics include: New Technology and Green Cleaning Webinar on July 18, 2011, at 1 p.m. CDT; The Dollars and Cents: Making the Financial Case for Green Cleaning Webinar on Aug. 1, 2011, at 1 p.m. CDT; and Process Cleaning for Healthy Schools Webinar on Aug. 15, 2011, at 1 p.m. CDT. [Register for a webinar today!](#)

GREEN CLEANING 101

Effective cleaning practices are an important part of developing a comprehensive IAQ management program. Improperly used chemicals and cleaning products can have harmful effects on students, teachers and staff. To ensure your school's classrooms,

Green Cleaning Resources

[Cleaning for Healthy Schools Toolkit](#)

— A free online toolkit developed, peer-reviewed and field-tested in 10 states, and sponsored by the Collaborative on Green Cleaning in Schools.

[The Quick & Easy Guide to Green Cleaning in Schools](#)

— The Healthy Schools Campaign has published the first-ever multimedia how-to guide to help schools adopt cleaning programs that encourage the use of green products, equipment and practices in schools.

Should we have our schools tested for radon? How do we keep mold from returning once it has been cleaned?

Have these and other questions answered on the Schools IAQ Connector Email Discussion List. Join today by sending a blank email message to schools_iaq_connector-subscribe@lists.epa.gov. Then check your email inbox for your confirmation and membership details.

Access Past E-Newsletters Online

Can't find a past *IAQ Tools for Schools* Connector e-newsletter in your email inbox? No problem! Wish you could

common spaces and hallways stay clean — as well as safe — consider implementing [green cleaning practices](#).

Green cleaning includes products and services that [reduce negative health and environmental impacts](#) compared with similar products and services used for the same purpose. Green cleaning practices reduce exposure to harmful indoor air pollutants, while ensuring the effectiveness of removing biological and other contaminants from the building's interior.

Interested in implementing green cleaning practices at your school or district?

Consider planning short and long-term activities for switching over to green cleaning practices. Learn how [Newark Public Schools](#) (Newark) in Newark, N.J., worked in stages to switch all chemical cleaning products to green alternatives. When Newark transitioned to green cleaning, they first educated occupants and custodians about the new products and the reasons for the switch. After a trial period, they asked for feedback. If anyone had reservations, Facilities Management listened and found an alternative. This “educate, test, listen and refine” approach to green cleaning engaged the entire school community and built trust and support for their IAQ program.

What are the benefits of green cleaning?

Discover how [North East Independent School District](#) (NEISD) in San Antonio, Texas, used the Framework for Effective School IAQ Management: [Key Drivers](#) to organize for success. The district converted to green cleaning custodial products, which resulted in a six-fold decrease in the levels of volatile organic compounds in classrooms and reduced costs by 30 percent. This success is also due to the amount of time and energy they put into training the schools' custodians, which helps ensure a systematic approach to cleaning procedures. During a recent site visit to NEISD, EPA representatives witnessed firsthand the proactive cleaning and maintenance practices the district takes to ensure a healthy, clean environment for its students (pictured right).

View a [green cleaning products and practices presentation](#) given at the 2011 *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Symposium by Rock Whitney, Director for Facility Support at NEISD, to learn about their strategies and successes.

FIVE COMMON MYTHS ABOUT GREEN CLEANING

As your school or district considers implementing green cleaning practices, a few questions or concerns may be posed by parents, administrators, students and others — are green products expensive? Do green products work? Read a list of common green cleaning myths below to learn more.

Myth #1: Green cleaning products don't work very well.

FALSE: This is a common misconception. Nontoxic cleaning products are just as effective as more traditional cleaners and are not as harmful to human health and the environment. To ensure cleaners are used properly and safely, train cleaning and maintenance staff on green cleaning product safety and protocols.

Myth #2: Green cleaning products are expensive.

FALSE: In fact, the prices of green cleaning products are very competitive and may be less expensive than traditional cleaning products. By implementing preventative maintenance practices, your school or district can also save money by buying fewer products in the long run.

Myth #3: Green products and services are hard to find.

read past editions? You can! Visit the [e-newsletter archive](#) to access printable versions (PDF) of all past editions on the *IAQ Tools for Schools* website.



FALSE: Green products and services are easy to find, and the availability of environmentally-friendly and green products is at an all time high. Visit EPA's [Environmentally Preferable Purchasing website](#) to learn how the federal government makes decisions on the types of green cleaning products it purchases.

Myth #4: To implement green cleaning practices, you have to dump out all of your current cleaning chemicals and buy all new products.

FALSE: Actually, switching to green products and/or services does not have to be done all at once. To gradually implement green cleaning practices, organizing and planning beforehand are critical. Consider conducting a [chemical inventory](#) to take stock of the products your school uses regularly. Your school or district can transition slowly and strategically to green products by getting rid of the most hazardous products first, and then phasing out other products.

Myth #5: If I use green cleaning products, then I have a complete IAQ management program.

FALSE: Although applying green cleaning practices is an important part of a comprehensive IAQ management program — it isn't all of it. To create a green and healthy school environment for students, teachers and staff, it is essential to develop and maintain a comprehensive IAQ management program that focuses on safe cleaning as well as effective heating, ventilation and air conditioning, mold and moisture control, integrated pest management, proactive maintenance, materials selection, and source control.



HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

Is there a topic you want to see covered in an *IAQ Tools for Schools* Connector e-newsletter? Need more information or have a quick question? Do you have suggestions for a webinar, an e-newsletter feature, or are you simply curious about an IAQ topic and would like more information? If so, send us an email at IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

Share YOUR news and events! Send us information to share with the school IAQ community. It could be featured in the next e-newsletter. Email your news to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance is designed to help schools maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting and preventing IAQ problems. Learn more about the *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools.